New York City's Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) are groups of community-based volunteers trained in disaster preparedness and emergency response.

Coordinated by NYC Emergency Management (NYCEM), New York City's Community Emergency Response Teams (CERTs) are groups of community-based volunteers trained in disaster preparedness and emergency response. NYC CERT members undergo an intensive 10-week training program that provides basic response skills needed for fire safety, light search and rescue, community disaster support, disaster medical operations, and traffic control.

Emergency services personnel are best equipped to respond to emergencies. NYC CERT members are trained to support New York City's first responders.

During non-emergency situations, NYC CERT members educate their communities about disaster preparedness through NYCEM's Ready New York program, and by building Community Disaster Networks.

1 Why should I join NYC CERT?

Your community needs you. Join NYC CERT if you want an opportunity to:

- Educate yourself, your family, and others about preparing for emergencies.
- Help your neighbors in times of disaster.
- Strengthen your relationship with your community.

2 What kind of training will I receive?

Classes are held for 10 weeks. NYC CERT instructors are FDNY, NYPD, and NYCEM personnel. The NYC CERT curriculum has been adapted from the FEMA national program to reflect the unique hazards that exist in New York City. Course topics include an introduction to NYC CERT and incident command, urban environment training, disaster medical operations, fire safety, light search and rescue, community organizing, police science, and terrorism awareness.

3 How do I join NYC CERT?

If you are 18 or older, live or work in New York City, and are interested in joining, visit NYC CERT online (NYC.gov/cert) or call 311.

4 How does NYC CERT help the community?

The NYC CERT program has a role for everyone. Members use a combination of NYC CERT training and community knowledge to serve their neighbors in times of disaster.

Since NYCEM began running the program in 2003, NYC CERT members have participated in community preparedness and disaster response activities, including:

- Traffic and crowd control at the Macy's Thanksgiving Eve Balloon Inflation, the Five Boro Bike Tour, the ING NYC Marathon and Half-Marathon, Walk MS, and the Autism Speaks fundraiser.
- Escorting NYC residents of evacuated buildings to retrieve personal belongings.
- Staffing assistance centers and coastal storm evacuation shelters.
- Interpreting for non-English speaking community members during emergencies.
- Emergency food and supply distribution during power outages and water main breaks.
- Presenting Ready New York preparedness information to neighbors.

brooklynbronxmanhattanqueensstatenisland

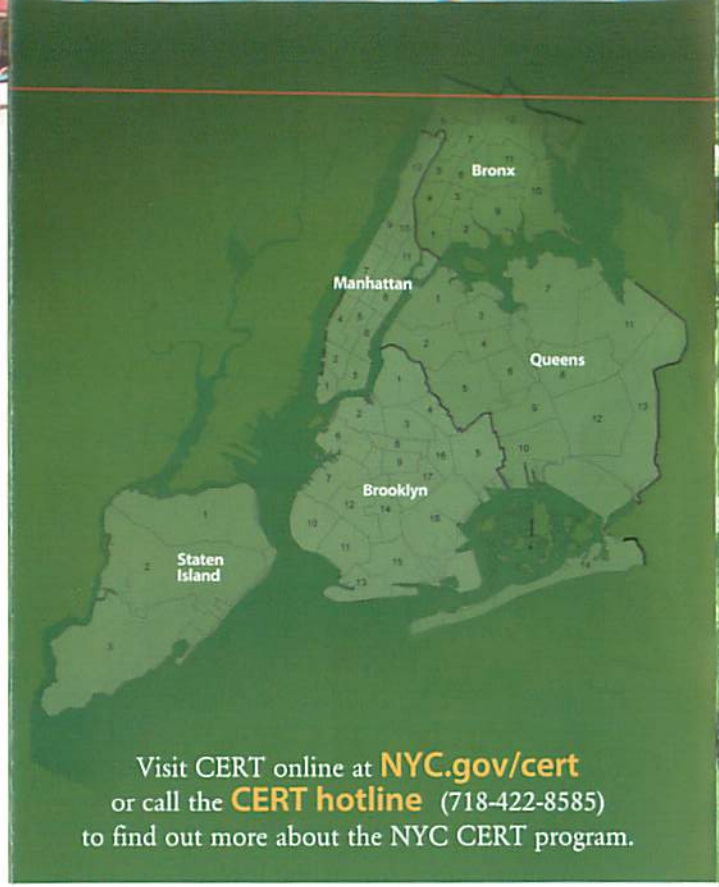
5 What is a Community Disaster Network?

Community Disaster Networks refer to the contacts CERT members establish within their community districts. To develop these networks, teams reach out to colleagues and organizations in their neighborhoods and capture information about resources, skills, or other details that might be used to help the community better respond to or recover from a disaster. More importantly, these networks help teams connect their communities with preparedness and recovery resources.

For more information on Community Disaster Networks, call the NYC CERT hotline: 718-422-8585.

> "Whether they are staffing reception centers, delivering supplies to neighbors, or interpreting conversations between community members and first responders, CERT volunteers have shown they are ready to help at a moment's notice, and the City is extremely grateful for their service. I encourage anyone who wants to strengthen the preparedness of his or her neighborhood to join the New York City CERT program."

– NYCEM Commissioner Joseph J. Esposito



Visit CERT online at **NYC.gov/cert**
or call the **CERT hotline** (718-422-8585)
to find out more about the NYC CERT program.

CONTACT: _____

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NEW YORK CITY citizen corps

2015 Edition

What is the New York City CERT program?

NYC Emergency Management

Bill de Blasio, Mayor
Joseph J. Esposito, Commissioner

OUR MISSION

Coordinated by NYC Emergency Management, NYC Citizen Corps is part of the national Citizen Corps initiative that seeks to make communities safer, stronger, and better prepared to respond to and recover from emergencies.

Through outreach, training, and volunteer service, NYC Citizen Corps brings together leaders from volunteer programs, community and nonprofit organizations, the private sector, and government to promote preparedness at the local level.

TRAINING AND EVENTS

Throughout the year, NYC Citizen Corps hosts trainings and conferences designed to build the capacity of nonprofit and community-based organizations to prepare for and respond to emergencies in New York City.

Trainings and events focus on various emergency preparedness issues including planning for people with access and functional needs, psychological first aid, and other relevant topics. These events provide members the opportunity to network, share ideas, and strengthen their organizations' emergency preparedness efforts.

COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK

The best way to stay informed about NYC Citizen Corps programs and events is to join the NYC Citizen Corps Communications Network.

NYC Citizen Corps distributes a weekly newsletter that includes information about preparedness initiatives, resources, and local events. During emergencies, the Communications Network is also used to disseminate important alerts and updates. For information on how to join the network, visit NYC.gov/citizencorps.

COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS

NYC Citizen Corps works with community-based organizations to increase preparedness, response and recovery capabilities at the local level.

Because such organizations are vital to the community, NYC Citizen Corps engages healthcare facilities, advocacy organizations, faith-based institutions, and other community-based organizations in developing plans, conducting outreach, and educating their constituents about how to be better prepared for any emergency. Through NYC Citizen Corps, community members can get connected to a variety of tools and resources to ensure they are informed and prepared.

To learn more about our program, visit NYC.gov/citizencorps.

OUR GOALS

1. **Prepare the public for emergencies through targeted outreach, with special attention given to vulnerable populations and communities.**
2. **Engage voluntary and community-based organizations in planning, developing, and sharing resources related to public safety, preparedness, and local emergency response.**
3. **Host discussions and training workshops aimed at building the capacity of the volunteer and emergency preparedness community.**
4. **Provide information, resources, and emergency updates through a communications network.**

JOIN US!

NYC Citizen Corps is an open network available to anyone interested in local disaster preparedness. We encourage participation from community-based organizations, nonprofits, relief organizations, government agencies, and individuals of all backgrounds who have an interest in building resilience throughout NYC communities.

To learn more about Citizen Corps, email **citizencorps@oem.nyc.gov, call 311,** or visit **NYC.gov/citizencorps.**

NEW YORK CITY citizen corps
NYC.gov/citizencorps

NEW YORK CITY citizen corps

MAKING COMMUNITIES SAFER, STRONGER & BETTER PREPARED

NYC Emergency Management

OEM New York City Office of Emergency Management

Bill de Blasio, Mayor

Joseph J. Esposito, Commissioner

Looking For Immigration Help?

Join Us For the Protecting Immigrant New Yorkers Immigration Fair

@ 26 Federal Plaza Rm. 310
New York, NY 10278

March 11th, 2016 ★ 1-4pm

Come meet and network with representatives from United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, the Federal Trade Commission, local District Attorneys, Consular Officials, Community Based Organizations, and State and City agencies, to hear about the protection and services available to immigrant New Yorkers. This event is being sponsored in conjuction with Consumer Protection Week.

Please present this flyer to facilitate your entrance into the event